

What is claimed is:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one modified mRNA that encodes at least one peptide or polypeptide, wherein the peptide or polypeptide is biologically active or antigenic, and a pharmaceutically compatible carrier and/or vehicle, wherein said modified mRNA encoding the peptide or polypeptide comprises an increase in Guanine/Cytosine (G/C) content relative to that of a wild type mRNA encoding the peptide or polypeptide, wherein the modified wild type mRNA and the modified mRNA encode a peptide or polypeptide comprising an identical amino acid sequence; and/or wherein said modified mRNA encoding the peptide or polypeptide comprises a substitution wherein at least one codon recognized by a rare cellular tRNA is replaced by a codon recognized by an abundant cellular tRNA, and said abundant and rare cellular tRNAs recognize the same amino acid.
2. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the modified mRNA encoding the peptide or polypeptide comprises an increase in G/C content, wherein said G/C content is increased at least 15% relative to that of the wild type mRNA encoding the peptide or polypeptide.
3. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the modified mRNA encoding the peptide or polypeptide comprises a sequence wherein at least one codon of a wild type sequence recognized by a rare cellular tRNA is replaced with a codon recognized by an abundant cellular tRNA, and wherein said rare cellular tRNA and said abundant cellular tRNA recognize the same amino acid.
4. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the modified mRNA encoding the peptide or polypeptide comprises a sequence wherein each codon of the wild type sequence recognized by a rare cellular tRNA is replaced with a codon recognized by an abundant cellular tRNA.

5. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the modified mRNA encoding the peptide or polypeptide comprises a maximum G/C content and a maximum number of codons recognized by abundant tRNAs.
6. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein the modified mRNA encoding the peptide or polypeptide comprises a sequence wherein the number of destabilising sequence elements is reduced relative to that of a wild type sequence.
7. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 6 wherein the modified mRNA encoding the peptide or polypeptide comprises a sequence having no destabilising sequence elements.
8. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein the modified mRNA comprises a 5' cap structure and/or a poly-A tail of at least 70 nucleotides and/or an internal recognition entry site (IRES) and/or a 5' stabilisation sequence and/or a 3' stabilisation sequence.
9. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the modified mRNA comprises at least one analogue of a naturally occurring nucleotide.
10. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9, wherein the analogue is selected from the group consisting of phosphorus thioates, phosphorus amidates, peptide nucleotides, methylphosphonates, 7-deazaguanosine, 5-methylcytosine and inosine.
11. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one peptide or polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a growth factor, a tumour antigen, a viral antigen, a bacterial antigen and a protozoal antigen.
12. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11, wherein the viral, bacterial or protozoal antigen is a secreted polypeptide.
13. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11, wherein the polypeptide is a polypeptide.

14. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a tumour antigen, a viral antigen, a bacterial antigen and a protozoal antigen.
15. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the modified mRNA further encodes at least one cytokine.
16. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one cytokine.
17. A method for vaccinating a subject against an infectious disease or cancer, the method comprising inoculating the subject with a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the inoculating elicits an immune response in the subject, thereby vaccinating the subject against the infectious disease or cancer.
18. A method for promoting tissue regeneration in a subject, the method comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 to the subject, wherein the administering promotes tissue regeneration in the patient.
19. A method for modifying a nucleic acid sequence to generate a modified nucleic acid sequence having altered properties, wherein the nucleic acid sequence and the modified nucleic acid sequence encode an identical peptide or polypeptide, the method comprising:
- (a) generating a virtual translation of the nucleic acid sequence to produce an amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleic acid sequence;
  - (b) generating a virtual reverse translation of the amino acid sequence to determine all codon sequences capable of encoding each amino acid of the amino acid sequence;
  - (c) increasing Guanine/Cytosine (G/C) content of the virtual reverse translation and/or increasing a frequency of codons recognized by abundant cellular tRNAs in the virtual reverse translation, wherein increasing the G/C content and increasing the

frequency of codons recognized by abundant cellular tRNAs in the virtual reverse translation is performed using selection lists and optimisation algorithms, and the selection lists and optimisation algorithms are executed using a computer having a software program capable of generating a modified nucleic acid sequence having altered properties.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is an mRNA sequence.

21. The method according to claim 19, further comprising incorporating naturally occurring stable sequences into the virtual reverse translation.

22. The method according to claim 19, further comprising reducing the number of destabilising sequence elements in the virtual reverse translation.

23. The method according to claim 19, wherein the software program comprises a source code of Appendix I.

24. A modified nucleic acid sequence generated by the method of claim 19.

25. A modified nucleic acid sequence according to claim 24, wherein said modified nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group of SEQ ID NOs: 3-7, 10 and 11.

26. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a modified nucleic acid sequence of claim 24 and a pharmaceutically compatible carrier and/or vehicle.

27. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, further comprising at least one cytokine.

28. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, further comprising an adjuvant.